

TOP SWedes ARE A DISAPPOINTMENT

Report by TERRY REEVE
Wycombe Wanderers 2, Djurgardens 1

THERE was a disappointment in store for the 400 plus crowd who turned up at Loakes Park on Thursday in hope of seeing some fast entertaining football from top Swedish side Djurgardens I.F. Boasting four full and seven under 23 internationals in their squad, the touring Swedes failed to impress in their 2-1 defeat by Wycombe Wanderers.

The "Blues," also expecting something special from the opposition in this friendly, were at full strength with the exception of Peter Spittle who took over the goalkeeper's jersey from John Maskell. However, to be truthful, Djurgardens looked more impressive in their long warm-up session than they did during the match.

The started the game with a negative approach and despite being 2-0 down at half time, still failed to adopt more positive tactics. Their attacks were few and far between and the raids they did mount looked ineffective unless the skilful Anders Gronhagen was involved.

Another disappointing factor was their robust tackling in defence. Although never resorting to vicious challenges, they made an unnecessary habit of barging into their opponents, thus giving away countless free-kicks. In the first 20 minutes of the second half, they were penalised for fouls at an average of once every two minutes.

Wycombe, on the other hand, should have made ample use of these dead ball situations, many of which were conceded on the edge of the penalty area. Tony Horseman, a specialist with such kicks, was not brought on until the 62nd minute and without him Wycombe appeared to lack ideas.

This typified Wycombe's lack of imagination on the night. After snapping up two first half chances, they should have stressed their clear superiority in the second period. Unfortunately, the link between the midfield and strikers and also the superb form of Djurgarden's skipper Sven Lindman in defence, prevented them from increasing their lead.

Twice in the first 16 minutes, the visitors showed what they were capable of when scything throughballs to Sven Kranz and Gronhagen, split the Wanderers' defence. Kranz blasted his effort high over the crossbar while Gronhagen, who produced great acceleration, struck a tame shot at Spittle.

With these let-offs behind them, Wycombe settled down and ironically, scored from a

poor free-kick by Howard Kennedy in the 22nd minute. The kick landed in a cluster of Djurgarden defenders but Macrae quickly gained possession and flicked the ball through to Dylan Evans. The Welsh striker made no mistake in slotting past 'keeper Bjorn Alkeby from six yards.

In an indirect way it was Macrae who brought about the second goal. After receiving an earlier knock, Macrae was injured again and was forced to leave the field. Rather than wait until half time, manager Brian Lee brought on substitute Mick Holifield in the 42nd minute. Immediately, Evans played the ball through to Holifield who, with his first touch, saw a shot

beaten out by Alkeby, but quickly seized the rebound and rammed home goal number two.

Both sides made early substitutions after the interval but there was little or no change in the pattern of play. Wycombe continued to swarm forward but more often than not their attacks broke down at the feet or head of Lindman who, unlike his colleagues, did not have to call upon the strong arm tactics to get out of trouble.

For all their pressure, Wanderers only managed two more worthwhile chances. Dave Alexander lashed a fierce first time shot from 25 yards inches over the top and Horseman was denied a goal when Alkeby

punched his delicate free-kick from under the bar.

Keith Mead and John Delaney mopped up Djurgardens' sporadic raids but in the later stages of the half, the visitors looked more precise in their attacking. Curt Olsberg failed to round off a fine flowing move when he fired a weak shot straight at Spittle but in the 83rd minute, Djurgardens finally scored. Olsberg drove a hard cross from the left wing and Gronhagen made contact to beat Spittle with a splendid glancing header.

WYCOMBE: Spittle, Birdseye, Eaton, Mead, Delaney, Alexander, Kennedy, Reardon, Evans, Anthony, Macrae. Subs. Holifield, Horseman.

DJURGARDENS: Alkeby, Eriksson, Berggren, Jakubsson, Olsberg, Lovfors, Lindman, Svensson, Gronhagen, Krantz, Carlsson. Subs. Stenbeck, Malmorn.

Half-time: 2-0. **Scorers:** Wycombe — Evans (22 mins.), Holifield (43); Djurgardens — Gronhagen (83).